



I recently spoke at a press conference reviewing a successful year for the passage of legislation supporting veterans and their families (see other side of this newsletter). The press conference was held in front of the veterans' memorial monument outside the State Capitol in Hartford prior to Memorial Day weekend.

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 20th state Senate District is ensuring East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem and Waterford receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2008–2009:

	Fiscal Year 08-09
Total Education Grants	\$50,641,040
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$1,015,329
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$6,398,848
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$830,014
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$9,267,857
Total	\$68,153,088

Victory Over Broadwater

We received great news when we learned that the State of New York rejected Broadwater Energy's plan to construct a floating liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in the middle of Long Island Sound. As co-chair of the Long Island Sound LNG Task Force, I worked with other state officials in Connecticut and New York and raised concerns that the project would have a negative impact on the environment and public safety, would set a bad precedent by commercializing Long Island Sound, and wouldn't guarantee lower-cost natural gas to the region. Public officials throughout the Northeast must work together to address our region's energy challenges by bringing new, additional, and alternative energy sources on line in an environmentally sound and sustainable manner.

State Aid For Ocean Beach Park Repairs

Ocean Beach Park is one of the crown jewels among Connecticut's many shining shoreline sights. The park has served the recreational needs of state residents as a favorite destination for generations, and we know Connecticut families will continue to make it part of their summertime routine for generations to come. Now it's imperative that we seize this opportunity to make timely repairs to this popular destination. That's why I successfully fought for a bond package that includes \$2 million for Ocean Beach Park. Already, \$675,000 of that has been released to the city.



Dear Neighbor:

By almost any measure, the nation is in a recession, and states across America are feeling the effects.

Connecticut faces these uncertain times with a biennial budget that makes important investments in local schools, roads, health care, school readiness, municipal aid, criminal justice programs, and other vital needs.

However, state revenue forecasts continue to drop, and just as Connecticut's families are tightening their belts, so must our state government. While we held the line on any new spending during this past legislative session, we were still able to find ways to help the people of our state by enacting long-needed reforms in our criminal justice system, health care, consumer protection, and the environment.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Andrea Stillman
State Senator



State Senator Andrea Stillman

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I'm proud to
represent the
20th Senate District:

East Lyme

Montville

New London

Old Lyme

Old Saybrook

Salem

Waterford

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State Senator
Andrea Stillman
20TH DISTRICT



LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Closing Sexual Offender Loopholes

There are nearly 5,000 sex offenders living in Connecticut, and the state's sex offender Web site averages over 1 million visits per year. This year, we passed legislation that prohibits a sex offender from changing his or her name without first notifying the public safety commissioner, and requires the sex offender to sign a sworn affidavit that they are not seeking to avoid the legal consequences of their criminal conviction. Regardless of any possible name change, all sex offenders must still provide the state police with their name, address, date of birth, and other personal information.

Autism Legislation

Despite autism being the fastest-growing developmental disability in the country, there is still not enough support for those who are affected by it. This session I helped to pass a series of bills that will improve the quality of life for autistic children and give their caregivers more support. One new law requires education officials to develop a statewide plan to incorporate methods of teaching children with autism into programs, requirements, and training. Another requires health insurance companies to cover therapy services for those with autism, and provides support for people and their families who may not be eligible for state services.

Fighting the High Cost of Gasoline & Energy

We all know that the cost of fuel is sky-high—affecting how much you pay for gas and groceries. While we can't stop fuel prices from rising, we can prevent tax increases from further driving up the cost. This June, we said NO to a scheduled increase in the gross receipts tax. By blocking this tax hike, we're hoping to save you a few cents on each gallon, and that adds up. We're also taking action to help seniors and working families survive the high cost of the looming home heating oil season.



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this coupon and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the opposite side of this mailer.

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|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
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Keeping Jobs and Tax Revenue in Connecticut

Many Connecticut-based companies are losing state contracts to out-of-state companies. Instead of using state contracts to create jobs here, all too often multi-million dollar contracts are awarded to consulting firms in Arizona, printers in Michigan, and so on. I helped to pass a bill that will keep more of our tax dollars and jobs in Connecticut. The 'reciprocal preference' or 'Golden Rule' bill levels the playing field for local companies competing with certain out-of-state companies. The bill ensures that if another state offers an advantage to its own companies, then we do the same for our companies when they try to win a contract with the State of Connecticut.

Lowering Health Care Costs for Municipalities and Small Businesses

This legislative session we tried to tackle one of the biggest issues driving up our property taxes—health care costs for our cities and towns. The Connecticut Healthcare Partnership would allow municipalities, small businesses and nonprofits to voluntarily join the state employee health insurance plan. By expanding this large pool of insured, we would increase bargaining power and lower costs for municipalities. Not only would this benefit property tax payers,

but it would also benefit small businesses—they create the vast majority of jobs in Connecticut, but are hit the hardest when it comes to skyrocketing health care costs. As of this writing, the governor has indicated that she will veto this bill.



Teen Driver Education and Requirements Tougher

Communities across the state are grieving over the loss of young lives in tragic automobile accidents. The General Assembly made several changes this year to help prevent fatal accidents involving teenage drivers and passengers. Teens are now required to spend more time behind the wheel before they can get a driver's license, and they cannot drive with passengers under age 18 who are not immediate family for a year. Teens will also face harsh penalties—including license suspensions—for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, reckless driving, speeding, street racing and using a cell phone while driving. While we cannot prevent every accident, if we can save just one family from tragedy, these new laws will be a success.



Boosting Volunteer Firefighter Ranks

As Senate chair of the legislature's Public Safety and Security Committee, I fought for legislation that could boost the ranks of volunteer fire departments in Connecticut's small towns and cities. The bill will allow municipalities with paid firefighters to enter into agreements with neighboring towns and allow paid professionals to serve on their hometown volunteer fire departments. This will benefit both large towns with professional fire departments that worry about volunteer-related injuries to their paid firefighters, and small towns where professional firefighters live and where they can volunteer their talent and experience. The governor recently signed this bill.

Veterans' Benefits

We continue to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans and military personnel from Connecticut and their families. The General Assembly approved a bill that requires state-run institutions of higher education to offer tuition waivers for any state resident who is a dependent or surviving spouse of an active-duty military member who was killed in action after September 11, 2001. Legislation was also approved to provide additional educational opportunities for certain veterans and their families. Another measure enhances unemployment benefits

for spouses if they voluntarily leave their jobs because their military spouse has been relocated.



▲ EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As Senate chair of the General Assembly's Public Safety & Security Committee, I co-sponsored a day-long Emergency Preparedness Forum at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford in January. The forum featured agencies representing traditional first responders—like police, fire, and emergency medical services—and also expanded the scope of emergency response to include such things as a release of radioactive material, an influenza pandemic, and airline passengers arriving in Connecticut with dangerous, contagious conditions. In the photo above, I get a tour of a Connecticut State Police SWAT vehicle.

